

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 HA-05 /100 W
-----081606 120434Z /21
R 111940Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7398
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 7098

GENEVA FOR LABATT. PLEASE PASS IMF'S HERMAN REBHAM

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS ELAB, SHUM, PINT, AR
SUBJECT TRANSFER OF LABOR LEADER MIGUEL TO HOUSE ARREST

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6768

1. FORMER METALWORKERS UNION SECRETARY GENERAL AND BOSS
OF THE PERONIST "62 ORGANIZATIONS" LABOR/POLITICAL
MACHINE LORENZO MIGUEL WAS TRANSFERRED TO HIS PERSONAL
RESIDENCE THIS PAST WEEKEND FROM THE MAGDALENA MILITARY
PRISON WHERE HE HAS BEEN HELD SINCE THE MARCH 1976
MILITARY COUP. APPARENTLY, MIGUEL HAS BEEN PLACED IN
"HOUSE ARREST" STATUS AND NOT "CONDITIONAL LIBERTY"
AS IN THE RECENT CASES OF EX-GOVERNOR MENEM AND
EX-CONSTRUCTION UNION LEADER PAPAGNO (REFTEL).

2. A RELATIVE TOLD THE PRESS THAT MIGUEL IS NOT
AUTHORIZED TO MAKE STATEMENTS TO THE MEDIA, BUT ALL THE
CONDITIONS OF HIS ARREST HAVE NOT BEEN CLARIFIED
OFFICIALLY AS YET. ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM A TRADE
UNION SOURCE WHO PROBABLY RECEIVED HIS INFORMATION
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FROM NAVY OFFICERS CLOSE TO ADMIRAL MASSERA (REFTEL),
THE MILITARY JUNTA HAS SENTENCED MIGUEL TO A TOTAL
OF THREE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT WITH THE ALLEVIATING
PROVISION THAT HE MAY SPEND THE REMAINING SIX MONTHS
OF HIS SENTENCE UNDER HOUSE ARREST.

3. MIGUEL'S TRNASFER COMES AT A TIME WHEN METAL

WORKERS LEADERS WHO HAVE RESISTED MIGUEL'S LEADERSHIP
IN THE PAST ARE ATTEMPTING TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT
WITH THE ARMY UNDER WHICH THEY COULD (ALBEILL
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE MILITARY TRUSTEE) GAIN
GREATER CONTROL OVER THE EVERYDAY ADMINISTRATION
OF THE UNION'S AFFAIRS AS A TRANSITIONAL STEP FROM
THE CURRENT STATE OF MILITARY INTERVENTION TO THE
EVENTUAL GRANTING OF FULL UNION LIBERTY. THE SAME
ANTI-MIGUEL ELEMENTS IN THE METAL UNION ARE LSO
INVOLVED IN A MANEUVER, WITH SOME APPARENT UNDER THE TABLE
ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE ARMY, TO ORGANIZE A NEW
"UNITY" DRIVE IN ORDER TO WREST CONTROL OF THE
ARGENTINE LABOR MOVEMENT AWAY FROM THE "PERONIST
UNION MOVEMENT" (MSP) WHICH STILL--AS GOOD
VERTICALISTS--HONORS MIGUEL'S STATUS AS CAPO DI
TUTTI (SEPTTEL).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, HOUSE ARREST
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUENOS07098
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780381-1043
Format: TEL
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780978/aaaacmx.f.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 89ec5b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BUENOS AIRES 6768
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1474574
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSFER OF LABOR LEADER MIGUEL TO HOUSE ARREST
TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, PINT, AR, (MIGUEL, LORENZO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/89ec5b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014